

Appl. No. 10/089,330
Atty. Docket No. CM2344M
Amdt. dated September 6, 2005
Customer No. 27752

2

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-22 (canceled)

23. (currently amended) An elastic article comprising

- a) an active ingredient comprising at least an enzyme; and
- b) a matrix formed from a polymeric material and a plasticiser, provided that when the plasticiser consists of water, said water is present at a level ~~oat~~ at least 3% by weight,

wherein the article is adapted to deliver the active ingredient to an aqueous environment; wherein said article has a mean particle size of from about 50 to about 4000 microns; said matrix ~~comprises~~ has a glass transition temperature (T_g) ~~of below about 50°C~~; and ~~wherein~~ at least a part of said active ingredient is present in the matrix.

24. (currently amended) The elastic article according to claim 23, wherein said active ingredient is active in aqueous environments and wherein said article is water dispersible, water-disintegrating or water soluble.

25. (currently amended) The elastic article according to claim 23, wherein said matrix ~~comprises~~ has a T_g ~~of~~ between about -20°C and about 20°C and an elastic modulus of less than 1 GN.m⁻².

26. (currently amended) The elastic article according to claim 23, wherein said article is in the form of a foam which is stable upon contact with air and unstable upon contact with water.

27. (currently amended) The elastic article according to claim 23, wherein said article comprises from about 30% to about 90% by weight of the matrix, from about

Appl. No. 10/089,330
Atty. Docket No. CM2344M
Amdt. dated September 6, 2005
Customer No. 27752

3

5% to about 70% by weight of water and from about 1% to about 15% by weight of plasticiser.

28-33 (canceled)

34. (previous presented) The elastic article according to claim 23, wherein the polymeric material comprises a water soluble polymer.

35. (currently amended) The elastic article according to claim 23, wherein said article ~~comprises~~ has a relative density of from about 0.05 to about 0.9.

36. (currently amended) The elastic article according to claim 23, further comprising a closed cells and ~~an~~ open cells, wherein the ratio of closed to open cells is at least 1 to 1.

37. (previously presented) The elastic article according to claim 23, wherein said active ingredient is selected from the group consisting of: cleaning product ingredients, fabric care ingredients, pharmaceutical ingredients, cosmetic ingredient, and mixtures thereof.

38. (currently amended) The elastic article according to claim 23, wherein said active ingredient further comprising an ingredient is selected from the group consisting of: enzymes, perfumes, surfactants, brighteners, dyes, suds suppressers, bleaches, bleach activators, fabric softeners, fabric conditioners, antibacterial agents, effervescing systems and mixtures thereof.

39-41. (canceled)

42. (currently amended) The elastic article according to claim 23, wherein said article comprises a cleaning composition, fabric care composition, cosmetic composition, personal care composition or pharmaceutical composition ~~and mixtures thereof~~.

Appl. No. 10/089,330
Atty. Docket No. CM2344M
Amdt. dated September 6, 2005
Customer No. 27752

4

43. (previously presented) A cleaning composition, fabric care composition, cosmetic composition, personal care composition or pharmaceutical composition comprising the elastic article according to claim 23.

44. (currently amended) A method of delivering active ingredients, said method comprising the step of incorporating said active ingredient into the elastic article of claim 23 and delivering said active ingredient to an aqueous environment; wherein said active ingredient[[s]] are is a detergent active ingredient[[s]].

45. (currently amended) A method of using an elastic article in a composition, said method comprising the steps of incorporating the elastic article of claim 23 into a composition, said composition being selected from the group consisting of: cleaning compositions, fabric care compositions, personal care compositions, cosmetic compositions, pharmaceutical compositions and mixtures thereof.

46. (currently amended) The method of claim 45, further compositing the step of incorporating into said composition an active ingredient selected from the group consisting of: enzymes, perfumes, surfactants, brighteners, dyes, suds suppressers, bleaches, bleach activators, fabric softeners, fabric conditioners, antibacterial agents, effervescing systems, and mixtures thereof.

47. (new) A process for producing a foamed elastic article of claim 23, said process comprising the steps of

- a. obtaining a mixture of a polymeric material and a plasticiser;
- b. chemically or physically introducing gas in said mixture;
- c. prior to, simultaneously with or subsequent to step (b), adding an active ingredient to said mixture; and
- d. shaping of articles produced following step (c).

48. (new) The process according to claim 47, wherein the plasticizer comprises water so that the mixture of step (a) is an aqueous mixture and wherein during step (b),

Appl. No. 10/089,330
Atty. Docket No. CM2344M
Amdt. dated September 6, 2005
Customer No. 27752

5

(c) and/or (d), water is removed such that the resulting article comprises at least 3% by weight of free moisture.

49. (new) The process according to claim 47, wherein the shaping step (d) is performed by spraying, extrusion, moulding or micropastillisation.

50. (new) A process for producing an elastic article of claim 23 having cells within, said process comprising the steps of

- a. forming a mixture of a polymeric material, an active ingredient, a plasticizer and a liquid;
- b. shaping a resultant body from step (a); and
- c. evaporating at least a portion of liquid to form spacings in the mixture which form an inner area of cells within the elastic article.

51. (previously presented) The process according to claim 50, wherein step (c) is performed by freeze drying or by heating the body thereby causing at least a portion of the liquid to evaporate.